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X.—On *Waldheimia venosa*, Solander, sp.

By THOMAS DAVIDSON, F.R.S., F.G.S., &c.

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History*.

GENTLEMEN,

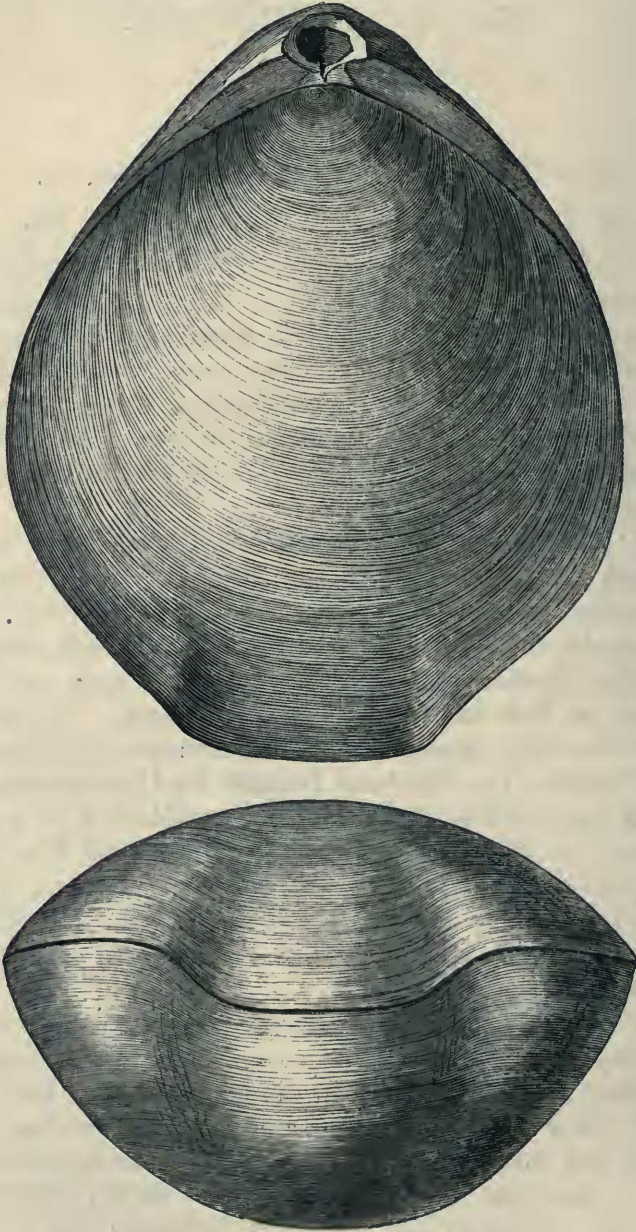
A great deal of valuable matter in connexion with the Recent Brachiopoda has from time to time been contributed to the 'Annals,' and consequently I would solicit space for a few remarks with reference to the largest recent specimen, and species, of Brachiopoda hitherto discovered, and of which we are now in possession of the correct habitat.

In the 'Annals' for June 1861, Mr. Lovell Reeve mentions that I had communicated to him the discovery that either *Waldheimia globosa* or *W. dilatata* had been collected nearly a century ago by the illustrious navigator Capt. Cook, and named by Solander *Anomia venosa*, that the name only appeared in manuscript at first in the Portland Catalogue, but that a few years later another specimen had been brought to England from the same locality (the Falkland Islands) by Capt. George Dixon, and in the narrative of his expedition; published in London in 1789, a very excellent figure and description had been given of it. The designation *Waldheimia venosa*, Solander, was consequently adopted by Mr. L. Reeve and myself, as it was the earliest name given to the largest recent form of Terebratula hitherto discovered.

On the 3rd of April of the present year, Rear-Admiral B. J. Sullivan kindly forwarded for my inspection and determination a Terebratula much exceeding in dimensions any I had hitherto seen; and I was informed at the same time that he had dredged it alive in the outer harbour of Port William, at the Falkland Islands, in the year 1843 or 1844. The depth at which the animal lived was from six to seven fathoms; the bottom on which the shell lay was a compact quartzose sand only, as no mud ever comes up with the dredge, although a stiff muddy

clay underlies the sand, in which anchors hold very firmly. Many small *Serpulae* are attached to its surface; and a long piece of sea-weed, two feet in length, was found growing from near its hinge.

On opening the box containing this interesting specimen (of which two correct drawings are here appended), I at once perceived that the shell was no other than an extremely large ex-



Waldheimia venosa, Solander, sp.
(Falkland Islands, and Collection of Rear-Admiral B. J. Sullivan.)

ample of Solander's species. In shape it is almost regularly oval, and longer than wide; the valves almost equally convex and deep, while in the dorsal valve there exists a shallow median depression or sinus close to the front, and which corresponds with a broad, slightly elevated mesial fold in the ventral valve. The beak of the ventral valve is moderately produced, incurved and truncated by a large circular foramen, partly margined by a deltidium in two pieces. In the interior of the dorsal valve the loop is elongated and reflected, while a sharp raised septum extends from under the cardinal process to about half the length of the valve. This fine specimen measured 3 inches 2 lines in length by 2 inches 8 lines in breadth, and 2 inches in depth.

Now the largest Tertiary *Terebratula* with which I am at present acquainted measures 4 inches 2 lines in length by 3 inches 1 line in breadth, and 2 inches 1 line in depth; but although the Crag *Terebratula grandis*, to which we would refer, does very much resemble in general form the recent *W. venosa*, the Tertiary shell was possessed of a short loop, and consequently is a true *Terebratula*, while *T. venosa* has an elongated one characteristic of the subgenus *Waldheimia*.

Admiral Sullivan informs me that *W. venosa* may perhaps occur also near Tierra del Fuego, where he supposes Solander's shell might have been found, as he is doubtful whether that naturalist ever was at the Falklands; and he thinks it surprising that during his own long service in that region, while in command of the 'Beagle,' the shell was never found by Darwin or any other of the officers on board, although the dredge was frequently at work.

In conclusion, I may here add that both the Cretaceous and Jurassic periods possessed one or two very large species of *Terebratula*; but none that I am aware of attained the proportions of the largest example of *T. grandis* with which we are acquainted. In the Triassic and Palæozoic periods the species of the genus are fewer in number and of much smaller proportions.

I remain, Gentlemen, yours, &c.,

THOMAS DAVIDSON.

XI.—*List of Coleoptera received from Old Calabar, on the West Coast of Africa.* By ANDREW MURRAY, F.L.S.

[Continued from p. 23.]

Bostrichidæ.

APATE, Fab.

This genus is in a state of considerable confusion. The few species described are for the most part of old date, being chiefly